

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06971 141935Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
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R 141926Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7725
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06971

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, SO, GW
SUBJECT: FRG-SOMALI RELATIONS

REFS: (A) BONN 4599; (B) BONN A-47 (NOTAL);

1. THE FRG HAS BEEN APPROACHED QUIETLY BY A SENIOR SOMALI OFFICIAL TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT IN PRIVATE FRG HOSPITALS FOR APPROXIMATELY 70 SOMALI SOLDIERS WHO WERE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE OGADEN FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE TREATMENT REQUIRED WOULD BE COMPLICATED AND PROLONGED AND THEREFORE QUITE EXPENSIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THE FRG IS INCLINED TO ACCEDE TO THE SOMALI REQUEST AND HAS BEGUN WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR COVERING THE COSTS, WHICH ARE ESTIMATED TO RUN INTO SEVERAL MILLION DM. (THERE ARE, ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS, SEVERAL ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS RECEIVING SIMILAR TREATMENT IN FRG HOSPITALS AT THE PRESENT TIME.)
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2. SOMALIA IS STILL INTERESTED IN PROCURING A NUMBER OF GERMAN-MANUFACTURED FISHING VESSELS. NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT PROGRESSED RAPIDLY. (SEE REFTEL B). THE QUOTED COST OF DM 12 MILLION PER COPY IS CONSIDERED TOO HIGH BY THE SOMALI SIDE AND SOMALI EFFORTS TO OBTAIN LOANS NECESSARY

FOR 50 PERCENT OF THE TRANSACTION COVERED BY HERMES GUARANTEES HAVE BOGGED DOWN. THE SOMALIS HAVE REQUESTED IDA TERMS ON THESE COMMERCIAL LOANS, WHICH ARE RARELY GRANTED.

3. THE FOREIGN OFFICE VIEWS LAST WEEKEND'S COUP ATTEMPT AS A SIGN THAT SIAD BARRE URGENTLY NEEDS CONCRETE SIGNS OF WESTERN SUPPORT IF HE IS TO REMAIN IN POWER. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF US AID DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA.

4. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ALSO ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE CONFIRMATION OF OR INFORMATION ON RECENT US NAVAL MANEUVERS IN THE RED SEA. ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS, US MANEUVERS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED BY BOTH THE SOMALIS AND ETHIOPIANS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FRG DIPLOMATS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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